

*Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 29; Matthew 28; Esther 5; Acts 28*

## January 28 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

### Genesis 29

#### Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

**Gen 29:1** And Ya'aqob moved on and came to the land of the people of the East.

**Gen 29:2** And he looked and saw a well in the field, and saw **three flocks of sheep lying by it**, **for out of that well they watered the flocks**, and **a large stone was on the well's mouth**.

Instantly, verse two captures our attention as three flocks are gathered around a well of water. The only thing separating them from the water is a large stone over the well's mouth. Believers, as the sheep of the Shepherd, also gather around the well of Living Water. Our Shepherd is the 'Stone of Israel' ~ the Door. Yahusha arose from the grave on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. The stone had been rolled away, not for Yahusha to come out but for His sheep to come in, to drink of His Living Water. Yahusha, our Melchizedek High Priest, removed the partition of separation between His sheep and His Living Water. His sheep, His betrothed, come to the well and they 'ask ~ seek ~ knock' for Living Water; and it is given unto them. [see Matthew 7:7]

Gen 49:22 "Yosëph is an offshoot of a fruit-bearing tree, an offshoot of a fruit-bearing tree by a fountain, his branches run over a wall.

Gen 49:23 "And the archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him.

**Gen 49:24** "But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty One of Ya'aqob **– from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Yisra'ël –**

Gen 49:25 from the Èl of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses you with blessings of the heavens from above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

Gen 49:26 "The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the limit of the everlasting hills. They are on the head of Yosëph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separated from his brothers.

**Gen 29:3** And all the flocks would be gathered there, then **they would roll the stone from the well's mouth and water the sheep**, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.

**Gen 29:4** So Ya'aqob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" And they said, **"We are from Haran."**

**Prior References to Haran:**

[Gen 11:31](#) And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur-kasdim to go to the land of Kena'an. And they came to [Haran](#) and dwelt there.

[Gen 11:32](#) And the days of Terah came to be two hundred and five years, and Terah died in [Haran](#).

[Gen 12:4](#) So Abram left, as יהוה had commanded him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from [Haran](#).

[Gen 12:5](#) And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the beings whom they had acquired in [Haran](#), and they set out for the land of Kena'an. And they came to the land of Kena'an.

[Gen 29:5](#) And he said to them, "Do you know Laban son of Naḥor?" And they said, "We know him."

[Gen 29:6](#) So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "Well. And see, his daughter Raḥēl is coming with the sheep."

[Gen 29:7](#) And he said, "See, it is still high day, not the time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."

[Gen 29:8](#) But they said, "We are not allowed until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth, then we shall water the sheep."

Similarly, the flocks of believers that were gathered in Abraham's bosom, before the coming Messiah, waited for the stone to be rolled away so that they could drink of His Living Water. They looked forward to the day when all the flocks would have access to this Living Water through the Shepherd that rolled away the stone of separation.

[Gen 29:9](#) While he was still speaking with them, Raḥēl came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

[Gen 29:10](#) And it came to be, when Ya'aqoḇ saw Raḥēl the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Ya'aqoḇ went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

[Gen 29:11](#) And Ya'aqoḇ kissed Raḥēl, and **lifted up his voice and wept.**

**Yahusha Wept Over Jerusalem:**

[Luk 19:41](#) And as He came near, He saw the city and wept over it,

[Luk 19:42](#) saying, "If you only knew even today, the *matters* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

[Luk 19:43](#) "Because days shall come upon you when your enemies shall build a rampart around you, and surround you and press you on all sides,

[Luk 19:44](#) and dash you to the ground, and your children within you. And they shall not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

**BDB Definition:** Laban = "white"

- 1) son of Bethuel, brother of Rebekah, and father of Leah and Rachel (noun proper masculine)
- 2) [a wilderness encampment of the Israelites \(noun proper locative\)](#)

Rachel, Jacob's future wife and the daughter of Laban, could actually be read the daughter of 'white.' If we continue with our analogy, Jacob's encounter with Rachel is like Yahusha's encounter with his betrothed. Yahusha provides us with garments without spot or blemish. He cloaks us with His purity of tzedakah, righteousness.

Rev 3:4 "Nevertheless, you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. **And they shall walk with Me in white**, because they are worthy.

Rev 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be dressed in **white robes**, and I shall by no means blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I shall confess his name before My Father and before His messengers.

Rachel is a shepherdess watching over her father Laban's sheep. We too are to shepherd our Father's sheep; sheep made 'white' by His righteousness. We too are to be shepherds and fishers of men. In the book, *'A Shepherd Looks at Psalms 23 by Philip Keller'*, he relays a story of how a shepherd's flock may be grazing in the pastures next to stray sheep; when the shepherd calls to gather his sheep, many times the stray sheep follow his sheep back to the fold. Similarly, we graze among YHWH's lost sheep and rejoice when those that have gone astray, follow us back to the Shepherd's voice and through the door leading to His fold.

Isa 40:11 He feeds His flock like a shepherd, He gathers the lambs with His arm, and carries them in His bosom, gently leading those who are with young.

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Rev 12:5 And she bore a male child<sup>a</sup> who was to shepherd all nations with a **rod of iron**.  
[Psa 2:9](#) And her child was caught away to Elohim and to His throne. Footnote: <sup>a</sup>See also [Isa 26:17](#), [Isa 66:7](#), [Mic 4:9-10](#).

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Joh 10:26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

Joh 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.<sup>d</sup> Footnote: <sup>d</sup>See also [Rev 14:4-5](#).

**Gen 29:12** And when Ya'aqob told Raḥēl that he was her father's relative and that he was Ribqah's son, she ran and told her father.

**Gen 29:13** And it came to be, when Laban heard the report about Ya'aqob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. Then he told Laban all these matters.

**Gen 29:14** And Laban said to him, "You are indeed my bone and my flesh." And he

stayed with him for a new *moon*.

[First mention of bone \[Gen. 2:23\]](#)

[Gen 2:23](#) And the man said, “This is now **bone** of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one is called ‘woman,’ because she was taken out of man.”

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[Gen 29:14](#) And Laḅan said to him, “You are indeed my **bone** and my flesh.” And he stayed with him for a new *moon*.

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[Exo 12:46](#) “It is eaten in one house, you are not to take any of the flesh outside the house, nor are you to break any **bone** of it.

[Gen 29:15](#) Then Laḅan said to Ya‘aqoḅ, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for naught? Let me know, what should your wages be?”

[Gen 29:16](#) And Laḅan had two daughters, the name of the elder was Lě‘ah, and the name of the younger was Raḥěl.

[Gen 29:17](#) And Lě‘ah’s eyes were weak, but Raḥěl was beautiful of form and beautiful of appearance.

[Gen 29:18](#) And Ya‘aqoḅ loved Raḥěl, so he said, **“Let me serve you seven years for Raḥěl your younger daughter.”**

[Gen 29:19](#) And Laḅan said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me.”

[Gen 29:20](#) So Ya‘aqoḅ served seven years for Raḥěl, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

[Gen 29:21](#) Then Ya‘aqoḅ said to Laḅan, “Give me my wife, for my days are completed, and let me go in to her.”

[Gen 29:22](#) And Laḅan gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.

[Gen 29:23](#) And it came to be in the evening, that he took Lě‘ah his daughter and brought her to Ya‘aqoḅ. And he went in to her.

[Gen 29:24](#) And Laḅan gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Lě‘ah as a female servant.

[Gen 29:25](#) And in the morning it came to be, that see, it was Lě‘ah. So he said to Laḅan, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Raḥěl that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?”

[Gen 29:26](#) And Laḅan said, “It is not done this way in our place, to give the younger before the first-born.

[Gen 29:27](#) **“Complete the week of this one, then we give you this one too, for the service which you shall serve with me still another seven years.”**

[Gen 29:28](#) And Ya‘aqoḅ did so and completed her week. Then he gave him his daughter Raḥěl too, as wife.

[Gen 29:29](#) And Laḅan gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Raḥěl as a

female servant.

**Gen 29:30** And he also went in to Raḥĕl, and he also loved Raḥĕl more than Lě'ah. And he served with Laḅan still another seven years.

### Jacob's Children

**Gen 29:31** And יהוה saw that Lě'ah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Raḥĕl was barren.

**Gen 29:32** And Lě'ah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Re'ubĕn, for she said, "For יהוה has looked on my affliction, because now my husband is going to love me."

**Gen 29:33** And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because יהוה has heard that I am unloved, He gave me this son too." And she called his name Shim'on.

**Gen 29:34** And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband is joined to me, because I have borne him three sons." So his name was called Lěwi.

**BDB Definition:** Levi = "joined to"

**Strong's Definition of Seven:** H7651 שֶׁבַע שִׁבְעָה sheba' shib'âh sheh'-bah, shib-aw'

From H7650; a primitive cardinal number; *seven* (as the sacred *full* one); also (adverbially) *seven times*; by implication a *week*; by extension an *indefinite* number: - (+ by) seven ([-fold], -s, [-teen, -teenth], -th, times). Compare H7658.

**Gen 29:35** And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I praise יהוה." So she called his name Yehuḁah. And she ceased bearing.

In Gen. 29, we see the beginning of the birth pangs which over time will bring forth the twelve patriarchs. Jacob's wives of Leah and Rachel, along with their female servants of Zilpah and Bilhah, were granted to Jacob in exchange for Jacob's service to Laban for increments of 7 years totaling 14 years. Later, we will see that Jacob serves Laban for an additional 7 years before departing totaling 21-22 years. The number seven is extremely significant in YHWH's Word from Genesis to Revelation. Seven represents the number of completion.

Today, we are at the very door of the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium, the 7<sup>th</sup> day, before we consummate our marriage with our Groom. This 7<sup>th</sup> millennium can also be viewed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> day or 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium since the days of Yahusha's first coming.

YHWH's spiritual house would continue through Jacob, 'Israel', and his 12 sons, the patriarchs. The covenant promise to Abraham was unfolding.

Rev 1:4 Yoḥanan, to the **seven assemblies** that are in Asia: Favour to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from **the seven Spirits that are before His throne.**

Rev 1:5 and **from יהושע Messiah, the trustworthy witness, the first-born from the dead,** and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.**

Rev 1:6 and **has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father,** to Him be **esteem and rule forever and ever. Amēn.**

The meaning of the names given to the first three patriarchs by Leah speak volumes. Every jot and tittle in His Word have meaning. Stringing the meanings of the first three patriarchs tell a story in themselves. **YHWH looked on our afflictions and saw that we were unloved and has joined us unto Himself.**

Col 1:18 **And He is the Head of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that He might become the One who is first in all.**

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Eze 16:4 “As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water for cleansing, and you were not rubbed with salt at all, nor wrapped in cloth at all.

Eze 16:5 “**No eye felt sorry for you,** to do any of these for you, to have compassion on you. But **you were thrown out into the open field, to the loathing of your life on the day you were born.**

Eze 16:6 “**Then I passed by you and saw you trampled down in your own blood, and I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ And I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’**

Eze 16:7 “I have let you grow like a plant in the field. And you are grown and are great, and you come in the finest ornaments. – breasts were formed, your hair grew, and you were naked and bare.

Eze 16:8 “Again I passed by you and looked upon you and saw that your time was the time of *carnal-love*. **And I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. And I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” declares the Master יהוה.**

Eze 16:9 “And I washed you in water, and I washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.

Eze 16:10 “**And I dressed you in embroidered work and gave you sandals of leather. And I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.**

Eze 16:11 “And I adorned you with ornaments, and I put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck.

Eze 16:12 “And I put a ring on your nose, and earrings in your ears, and a crown of adorning on your head.

Eze 16:13 “Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, and silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, and honey, and oil. And you were exceedingly beautiful, and became fit for royalty.

Eze 16:14 “And your name went out among the nations because of your loveliness, for it was perfect, by My splendour which I had put on you,” declares the Master יהוה.

## Matthew 28

Cheyne’s reading plan is so anointed in how the daily readings weave into a beautiful tapestry. Now, we will read about the resurrection of the Good Shepherd!

Each of the synoptic gospels record different aspects of the resurrection. John’s account, shows that Miryam from Maḡdala, sometimes referred to as Mary Magdalene, arrived at the tomb on the Sabbath as the day was dawning into the first day of the week; and finds the stone rolled away.

She runs and tells Peter and John that, “They have taken the Master out of the tomb, and we do not know where they laid Him.” Peter and John run to the tomb; John arrives at the tomb first and peers inside; but Peter enters the tomb first, then John enters. They both see the linen wrappings in one place and the cloth covering His head folded and placed by itself; and John seeing this believed. At this point, they had not fully understood the Scripture about His resurrection. Then they leave.

Now we read the resurrection account recorded in Matthew.

### The Resurrection

Praise Yah! The messenger of YHWH rolled the stone away so that the women would see that Yahusha had been raised! And not only that, Yahusha appears to them Himself! Can you imagine how their hearts rejoiced! The greatest day ever and they were there!

**Mat 28:1** But late in the sabbath,<sup>a</sup> as it was dawning into day one of the week,<sup>b</sup> Miryam from Maḡdala and the other Miryam came to see the tomb. Footnotes: <sup>a</sup>Gk. Sabbaths. <sup>b</sup>Gk. One of the sabbaths. See also [Mar 16:2](#), [Luk 24:1](#), [Joh 20:1](#) and [1Co 16:2](#). See Explanatory Notes - First Day of the Week.

Matthew also records that the day was dawning from the Sabbath to the first day of the week; Miryam from Magdala and the other Miryam arrive at the tomb. The day had not yet dawned into the first day of the week [Sunday] and a messenger of YHWH had rolled back the stone from the door. The added footnotes help us identify and affirm the day as still being the Sabbath. Understanding that the day begins at dawn, tells us that Yahusha was resurrected on the Sabbath. He then would ascend as the First Fruits offering on the first day of the week, when He would make full atonement on the heavenly altar as our Melchizedek Priest. For further study: <https://www.studythecalendar.com>

**Mat 28:2** And see, there was a great earthquake, for a messenger of יהוה came down out of heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garments as white as snow.

Mat 28:4 And the guards trembled for fear of him, and became like dead men.

Mat 28:5 **And the messenger responding**, said to the women, **“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek יהושע who was impaled.”**

Mat 28:6 **“He is not here, for He was raised, as He said. Come, see the place where the Master lay.”**

Mat 28:7 “And **go quickly, say to His taught ones that He was raised from the dead, and see, He is going before you to Galil. There you shall see Him. See, I have told you.”**

Mat 28:8 And they left the tomb quickly, with fear and great joy, and ran to report to His taught ones.

Mat 28:9 And as they were going to report to His taught ones, see, **יהושע met them, saying**, “Greetings!” And they came and held Him by the feet and did bow to Him.

Mat 28:10 **Then יהושע said to them**, “Do not be afraid. Go, report to My brothers, to go to Galil, and they shall see Me there.”

### The Report of the Guard

Mat 28:11 **And while they were going, see, some of the watch having gone into the city, reported to the chief priests all that took place.**

Mat 28:12 And when they had come together with the elders and taken counsel, **they gave enough silver to the soldiers.**

Mat 28:13 **saying**, “Say that His taught ones came at night and stole Him away while we slept.

Mat 28:14 “And if this should be reported to the governor, we shall win him over and keep you out of trouble.”

Mat 28:15 And having taken the silver they did as they were instructed. And this account was widely spread among the Yehudim, to this day.

Evil deeds can never be completely covered. There is no rest, no shalom, in evil. There is only betrayal and lies upon lies; payoffs for secrecy; broken promises and death; no integrity; a state of having one’s conscience seared.

1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit distinctly says that in latter times some shall fall away from the belief, paying attention to misleading spirits, and teachings of demons,

1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having been branded on their own conscience**,

### The Great Commission

Mat 28:16 And **the eleven taught ones went away into Galil, to the mountain which יהושע had appointed for them.**



Mat 28:17 And when they saw Him, they bowed to Him, but some doubted.

Mat 28:18 And יהושע came up and spoke to them, saying, **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

Mat 28:19 “Therefore, **go and make taught ones of all the nations, immersing them in the Name<sup>c</sup> of the Father and of the Son and of the Set-apart Spirit,**<sup>d</sup> Footnotes:

<sup>c</sup>Note: The singular. <sup>d</sup>Not found in the Hebrew Shem Tob text, “...and make taught ones of all the nations, immersing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Set-apart Spirit.”

Mat 28:20 **teaching them to guard all that I have commanded you.** And see, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Aměn.

We are to let His light shine in us and through us.

Rev 12:11 “And they overcame him **because of the Blood of the Lamb,** and **because of the Word of their witness,** and they did not love their lives to the death.

## Esther 5

### Esther Prepares a Banquet

**Est 5:1** And **it came to be on the third day** that Estěr put on royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the sovereign’s palace, in front of the sovereign’s house, while the sovereign sat on his royal throne in the royal house, opposite the entrance of the house.

Est 5:2 **And it came to be, when the sovereign saw Sovereigness Estěr standing in the court, that she found favour in his eyes, and the sovereign held out to Estěr the golden sceptre which was in his hand. And Estěr went near and touched the top of the sceptre.**

Est 5:3 And the sovereign said to her, “What is it, Sovereigness Estěr, and what is your request? Up to half my reign, and it is given to you!”

Est 5:4 **And Estěr answered,** “**If it pleases the sovereign, let the sovereign and Haman come today to the feast which I have prepared for him.**”

Est 5:5 And the sovereign said, “Get Haman at once, to do as Estěr has said.” **Then the sovereign and Haman went to the feast which Estěr had prepared.**

Est 5:6 And the sovereign said to Estěr at the feast of wine, “What is your petition? And it is given you. And what is your request? Up to half my reign, and it is done!”

Est 5:7 **And Estěr answered and said,** “My petition and request is this:

Est 5:8 “If I have found favour in the eyes of the sovereign, and if it pleases the sovereign to give my petition and perform my request, then let the sovereign and Haman come to the feast which I make for them, and tomorrow I shall do according to the word of the sovereign.”

It is interesting that Esther does a two-step process to present her petition. This shows wisdom as she sets-apart time to first honor her king and her husband. Leadership at the top is lonely yet full of decisions as each day unfolds. To have time when the king is invited to sit and relax would be welcomed. We also see that Esther invites Haman who had been promoted to the highest position than all the princes with him. Haman is the one that the sovereign had given his signet ring to in conducting 'kingdom business'; but he ends up choosing to conduct 'his own business.'

The wheat and the tares grow side by side in kingdoms; in governments; in assemblies; and in families. The spirit of Jezebel works its way close to the power positions to implement the evil influences of sa\_tan. The spirit of Jezebel is a chameleon that is slow to be recognized because of their 'theatrical' performances. However, the old cliché kicks in that says, 'You can fool some of the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.' Esther will soon reveal that she is not 'fooled' by Haman.

When the king inquires of Esther as to her petition; she then invites him to another feast in which she will share her petition according to the word of the sovereign. In the meantime, Haman's heart is full of pride and power; and in his state of delusion makes plans to hang Mordecai.

### **Haman Plans to Hang Mordecai**

**Est 5:9** And Haman went out that day rejoicing and with a glad heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the sovereign's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

**Est 5:10** But Haman held himself in, and came to his house, and he sent and called for his loved ones and Zeresh his wife.

**Est 5:11** And Haman recounted to them the esteem of his wealth, and his many sons, and all in which the sovereign had promoted him, and how he had exalted him above the officials and servants of the sovereign.

**Est 5:12** And Haman said, "Besides, Estër the sovereigness let no one but me come in with the sovereign to the feast which she prepared. And tomorrow too I am invited by her, along with the sovereign.

**Est 5:13** "But all this does not suit me, as long as I see Mordecai the Yehudi sitting at the sovereign's gate."

**Est 5:14** **So his wife Zeresh and all his loved ones said to him,** "Let a wooden structure be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the sovereign that Mordecai be hanged on it. And go with the sovereign to the feast, rejoicing." And the word pleased Haman, and he had the wooden *structure* made.

We see that not only was Haman under the influence of sa\_tan; but his whole household.

Pro 16:18 Before destruction comes pride, And before a fall a haughty spirit!

## Acts 28



### Paul on Malta

**Act 28:1** And having come to safety, they then learned that the island was called Melite.

**Act 28:2** And the foreigners showed us extraordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and received us all, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

**Act 28:3** But Sha'ul, having gathered a bundle of sticks, and having laid them on the fire, an adder came out because of the heat, and fastened itself on his hand.

**Act 28:4** And when the foreigners saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man is certainly a murderer, whom, though saved from the sea, still right-ruling does not allow to live."

Paul had experienced spiritual and physical 'bites of adders.' In both situations, he shook them off. Hopefully none of us will experience the physical bite of an adder; but true believers do experience their fair share of spiritual adder bites. For this reason, we put on and take up our full armor of YHWH. Paul stood firm in His faith knowing the work that YHWH had begun in his life would fully materialize. The same stands true for us. Rejoice if you suffer for His Name sake; for the enemy doesn't throw stones at 'dead birds.'

Isa 54:17 “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall prove wrong. This is the inheritance of the servants of יהוה, and their righteousness from Me,” declares יהוה.

Act 28:5 Then, indeed, he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no evil.

Act 28:6 And expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead, they waited for a long time and saw no harm come to him, changing their minds they said that he was a mighty one.

On Paul’s missionary journeys, we have seen numerous ‘mighty ones’ that the people worshipped. We have seen those that worshipped Venus; Mercury; Jupiter; Athena; Artemis; Apollo; and the ‘unknown god’ to name a few. These were among the nations; but Paul had now brought the Good News of Yahusha HaMashiach to all the nations who would receive Him.

Act 28:7 And in the neighborhood of that place there were lands of the chief of the island, whose name was Poplius, who received us and housed us in a friendly way for three days.

Act 28:8 And it came to be that the father of Poplius lay sick with inflammation and dysentery. Sha’ul went in to him, and having prayed he laid his hands on him and healed him.

Act 28:9 And when this took place, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed,

Act 28:10 who also respected us in many ways. And when we were setting sail, they provided us with our needs.

YHWH cares about people even in the remotest places. Yahusha came to ‘seek’ and to ‘save’ that which is lost. This terrible storm at sea positioned Paul to minister to the people on the isle of Melite [Malta]. Praise Yah!

### Paul Arrives at Rome

Act 28:11 And after three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and whose figurehead was “Dioscuri.”<sup>a</sup> Footnote: <sup>a</sup>Which means: Twin Brothers, who were Sons of Zeus, named Castor and Pollux. They were tutelary deities of sailors.

Now we are introduced to more mighty ones: Zeus [Jupiter]; Castor; and Pollux. These were the gods of sailors.

Act 28:12 And having landed at Syracuse, we stayed three days,

Act 28:13 from which place we went round and arrived at **Rhegium**. And after one day the south wind blew, and the second day we came **to Puteoli**,

Act 28:14 **where we found brothers, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome.**

Act 28:15 And when the brothers there heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Forum of Appius and Three Taverns. When Sha'ul saw them, he thanked Elohim and took courage.

Act 28:16 And **when we came to Rome, the captain delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Sha'ul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him.**

Even though Paul was in captivity; the flames ignited through his missionary journeys were spreading. The Word was alive among the nations then and now; that is why I believe the 'Book of Acts' never ends! We are still sharing His Covenant Confirming Gospel Message ever since the Ruach HaKodesh ignited in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century believers at Pentecost in Acts 2. All praise and thanks be to YHWH!

### Paul in Rome

Paul continued to reach out to the Yehudim.

Act 28:17 And it came to be **after three days** that Sha'ul called the leaders of the Yehudim together. And when they had come together, he said to them, "Men, brothers, though I have done none at all against our people or the practices of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Yerushalayim into the hands of the Romans,

Act 28:18 who, when they had examined me, intended to let me go, because there was **no cause for putting me to death.**

Act 28:19 "But the Yehudim spoke against it, and I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation.

Act 28:20 "This therefore is the reason I called for you, to see you and speak with you. It is because of the **expectation of Yisra'el** that I am bound with this chain."

Act 28:21 And they said to him, "We neither received letters from Yehudah concerning you, nor have any of the brothers who came reported or spoken whatever wicked about you.

Act 28:22 **"And we think it right to hear from you what you think, for indeed, concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."**

Act 28:23 And having appointed him a day, many came to him where he was staying, to whom he was explaining, earnestly witnessing about **the reign of Elohim**, and persuading them concerning יהושע from both the Torah of Mosheh and the Prophets, from morning until evening.

Act 28:24 And some indeed were persuaded by what was said, but some believed not.

Act 28:25 And disagreeing with one another, **they began to leave, after Sha'ul had spoken one word,** “The Set-apart Spirit rightly spoke through Yeshayahu the prophet to our fathers,

The words of the prophet Isaiah were still ringing true but their hard hearts prevented their ears from receiving understanding and their eyes from receiving spiritual sight. The Yehudim had turned away from YHWH and the nation people were turning to YHWH. We still pray for the Yehudim to have eyes to see and ears to receive understanding. We still pray that they will soon say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the Name of YHWH.’

Act 28:26 saying, **‘Go to this people and say, “Hearing you shall hear but by no means understand, and seeing you shall see but by no means perceive,**

**Act 28:27 for the heart of this people has become thickened, and with their ears they heard heavily, and they have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn back, and I should heal them.” ’** [Isa 6:9-10](#).

Act 28:28 **“Therefore let it be known to you that the deliverance of Elohim has been sent to the nations, and they shall hear!”**

Act 28:29 **And when he had said these words, the Yehudim went away and had a great dispute among themselves.**

Act 28:30 And **Sha'ul stayed two entire years**

- in his own rented house, and
- was receiving all who came to him,
- [Act 28:31](#) proclaiming the reign of Elohim and
- teaching about the Master יהושע Messiah with all boldness, unhindered.

With Paul’s first Roman imprisonment, ‘house arrest’, he writes the four ‘prison epistles.’ The below dates are estimated.

YEAR AD	CHURCH EVENT	N. T. BOOK WRITTEN	WORLD EVENT
59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul in prison in Caesarea</li> <li>Paul appears before Festus and King Herod Agrippa II (Acts 25,26)</li> <li>Paul appeals to Caesar in Rome (25:11) so Paul is sent to Rome by Festus (25:12) and Agrippa (26:32)</li> <li>In an attempt to beat the coming winter a ship of prisoners leaves for Rome (Acts 27)</li> <li>Paul advised the commanding centurion, Julius, to harbor at Fair Havens on Crete but they decided to go onto Phoenix. The ship was blown off course out into the Mediterranean Sea and crashed near Malta. (Acts 27:9-28:10)</li> </ul>		
60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul arrives in Rome and is allowed to live by himself with a Roman soldier to guard him (Acts 28:16)</li> </ul>	Paul writes <b>Ephesians</b> from Roman imprisonment	
61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul continues in Rome under house arrest.</li> </ul>	Paul writes <b>Philippians</b> from Roman imprisonment	
62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul continues in Rome under house arrest</li> <li>Peter comes to Rome and writes <b>First Peter</b></li> <li>Paul is released from Roman imprisonment.</li> <li>Paul either leaves for Spain or first visits Philippi and Corinth along with other churches in Achaia and Macedonia.</li> <li>Paul writes Timothy a letter. Timothy is in Ephesus and Paul may have written it from Macedonia.</li> <li>Paul leaves for Spain</li> </ul>	Paul writes <b>Colossians</b> and <b>Philemon</b> from Roman imprisonment Peter writes <b>First Peter</b> from Rome Paul writes <b>First Timothy</b> from Macedonia	

*5 years in prison  
this go around*

~ Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>